

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-4 and 6-8 have been amended.

Claims 1-8 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

In the Office Action, at pages 2-3, items numbered 3-5, claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for the reasons set forth therein.

Applicant's representative appreciates the courtesy extended by Examiner Lee during the interview conducted on September 20, 2004. Although during the interview modifying "to access the peripheral unit" to "have been accessed" was discussed, after further review and to avoid grammatical and/or clarity issues, "to access the peripheral unit" has been deleted, thereby rendering the § 112, first paragraph rejection moot.

In response to the claim rejections, the claims have been amended to improve clarity and antecedent support. As discussed and agreed to during the interview, page 9, lines 10-16, for instance, of the Specification of the present invention supports the preamble of the claims: "wherein the peripheral unit manager stores property information and address information corresponding to each peripheral unit." Furthermore, support for the property information and address information may be found, for instance, on page 8, line 31, to page 9, line 9.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection to the claims be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

In the Office Action, at page 3, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,427,176 to Berglund ("Berglund"). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Berglund generally describes an SPCN (System Power Control Network) with the capability of sensing any subsystem changes, e.g., a new subsystem installation, and assign new 'bay' or slot labels to VPD (Vital Product Data) memory chips contained within the new subsystems. SPCN establishes, for example, a reference table containing the correct labeling structure for a given subsystem Part Number that it has read from the VPD chip. See column 5, lines 15-25.

The device stores hardware information including peripheral unit information in addition

to system information (OS) in a CMOS. In the device, VPD (vital product data) is stored when the system is configured or updated by adding new components by the user. According to the invention, the device senses hardware changes in chassis subsystems and updates software changes based on the stored information, thereby making it possible to rearrange slot labels, wherein one or more card devices are plugged into the respective slots on a back-plane in the device. See column 6, lines 14-24.

According to Berglund, a service person can obtain updated device configuration information because the device stores updated component location information. On the other hand, according to an aspect of the present invention, the peripheral unit management system manages a plurality of peripheral units and stores the new address information and the property information, if the property information does not coincide with the property information stored in the peripheral management unit, when both a LAN card and a main body of the peripheral unit have been replaced. The peripheral unit management system also reuses previously accumulated data in a peripheral unit when only a LAN card of the peripheral unit has been replaced but a main body of the peripheral unit has not been replaced.

In particular, the peripheral unit management system “an obtaining unit obtaining the new address information of the one of the peripheral units **when** the determining unit determines that the one of the peripheral units has been replaced,” as recited in independent claim 1. Furthermore, “**when** the property information read **does not coincide** with the property information stored in the peripheral unit manager, storing the property information read and the new address information of the one of the peripheral units, **or, when** the property information read **does coincide** with the property information stored in the peripheral unit manager, storing data being accumulated in for the peripheral unit with the new address information of the one of the peripheral units **after** setting the property information to correspond to the new address information,” emphasis added, as recited in independent claim 1.

Because independent claims 4 and 7 include similar claim features as those recited in independent claim 1, although of different scope, and because the Office Action refers to similar portions of the cited references to reject independent claims 4 and 7, the arguments presented above supporting the patentability of independent claim 1 are incorporated herein to support the patentability of independent claims 4 and 7.

It is respectfully asserted that the cited reference fails to anticipate all the claimed features of independent claims 1, 4, and 7. It is respectfully requested that independent claims 1, 4, and 7, and related dependent claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, this Amendment should be entered at least for purposes of Appeal as it either clarifies and/or narrows the issues for consideration by the Board.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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